

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652:(/A

TAGS: PGOV, PUZR, UY

SUBJ: NEW HEALTH MINISTER NAMED

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FIRST OF THE LONG AWAITED CABINET CHANGES TOOK PLACE ON JULY 4 WHEN DR. JUSTO M. ALONSO LEGUISAMO REPLACED DR. JUAN BRUNO IRULEGUY AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH. DR. ALONSO'S APPOINTMENT REPRESENTS THE CONTINUATION OF PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S PKEWPRY OF NAMINVN TECHNICIANS RATHER THAN POLITICIANS TO CABINET LEVEL POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. JUSTO M. ALONSO WAS SWORN IN AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH ON JULY 4. HIS APPOINTMENT FOLLOWS LITERALLY MONTHS OF SPECULATION REGARDING CABINET CHANGES AND PROBABLY REPRESENTS ONLY THE FIRST OF SEVERAL NEW DESIGNATIONS AT THE CABINET LEVEL. IN KEEPING WITH HIS PRACTICE OF THE PAST YEAR, PRESIDENT BORDABERRY CHOSE A TECHNICIAN RATHER THAN A POLITICIAN FOR HIS CABINET. WHILE

ALONSO IS KNOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL (BLANCO) PARTY, HE HAS NEITHER HELD POLITICAL OFFICE NOR PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICS.

3. THE PRESIDENT CHOSE AN EMINENT PHYSICIAN TO HEAD THE HEALTH MINISTRY. HAVING HAD SOME ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE ALONSO MAY BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS PREDECESSOR, THE AGED DR. IRULEGUY WHO
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NEVER BECAME A STRONG MINISTER.

4. BIO DATA ON THE NEW MINISTER FOLLOWS. HE WAS BORN IN MONTEVIDEO IN 1912. WHILE STUDYING MEDICINE AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, HE SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS, AND IN 1938 WON A JOB IN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH COMPETITIVE

EXAMINATION. DR. ALONSO RECEIVED HIS MEDICAL DEGREE IN SEPTEMBER 1941. DURING THE PERIOD 1942-57 HE HELD VARIOUS POSITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OF SURGERY, CHIEF OF THE EYE, NOSE AND THROAT SECTION AND INSTRUCTOR OF MEDICINE IN UNIVERSITY CLINICS. HE BECAME THE MEDICAL CHIEF OF THE PENITENTIARY HOSPITAL IN 1951 AND REMAINED IN THAT JOB UNTIL NOW

5. THE NEW MINISTER IS WELL KNOWN IN HIS FIELD, HAVING ACTED AS MODERATOR OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SPECIALISTS HELD IN MONTEVIDEO IN 1963 AND HAVING PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES RELATING TO HIS WORK. HE IS CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SOCIETY AND MEMBER OF THE URUGUAYAN DELEGATION TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER OF THE LARYNX.

6. DR. ALONSO IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN -- CARMEN RAQUEL, JUSTO MARIO, AND CIRO.
SIRACUSA

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